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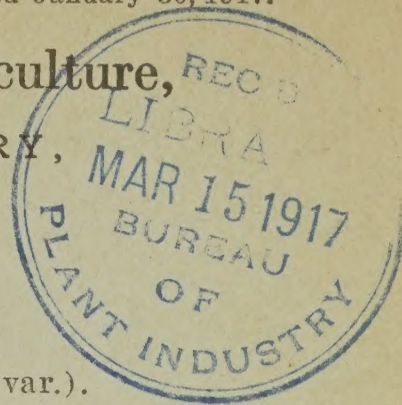
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WASHINGTON, D. C.

GIANT BERMUDA GRASS (*Cynodon dactylon* var.).

Giant Bermuda grass was received from Brazil in 1911. During the last five years it has been tested in various localities in the Southern States. In appearance and habit it resembles ordinary Bermuda grass, but makes a much heavier and stronger growth. On good soil it often makes runners 20 or more feet in length and when the ground has become well covered an ascending growth of 3 to 5 feet, though the stems are so slender that they soon become so recumbent that the height of the crop in the field is seldom more than about 2 feet. It recovers quickly after being cut, and the hay is of excellent quality. The yield is from 1 to 2 tons per acre from each of the two or three cuttings which can usually be made.

For grazing purposes Giant Bermuda grass may be used exactly as ordinary Bermuda grass, but it produces a larger amount of pasturage.

One important peculiarity of the grass is that it spreads entirely by stolons or runners on the surface of the ground, which root at every joint, instead of by underground rootstocks, as do most other forms of Bermuda grass. It seldom produces heads, and mature seed has not been observed in this country. This habit of growth and its failure to mature seed make the grass easy to control, and it is easily killed by a very shallow plowing and harrowing in the fall. In the northern part of the Bermuda-grass region most of it will be killed by mowing very low late in the season.

This grass is propagated by planting small pieces of the runners or stolons, which may be cut by the best available method. The pieces of runners may be scattered along in the plow furrows about 2 feet apart and the ground afterwards harrowed, or they may be scattered over well-prepared land and pressed in with a roller. Planting between the rows of a cultivated crop at the last cultivation succeeds, unless the ground is too much shaded. These methods of propagation may be used at any time from corn-planting time until late summer. The grass should cover the ground fully the first season, and on good land will furnish considerable pasturage or a good cutting of hay, but a full yield will not be obtained until the second season.

S. M. TRACY, *Agronomist.*

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